

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 17, 2004. Claims 1-19 are pending in the application. In the Office Action, election of a single disclosed species is required and it is alleged that the present application contains claims to the following species:

1. FIG. 1
2. FIG. 5
3. FIG. 6
4. FIG. 7
5. FIG. 8
6. FIG. 9
7. FIG. 10
8. FIG. 12
9. FIG. 13
10. FIG. 14
11. FIG. 15
12. FIG. 19
13. FIG. 21

In response thereto, Applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, species 12. All the claims, namely, claims 1-19 correspond to the elected species.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the species requirement, or in the alternative, modification thereof. In particular, Applicant submits that the alleged species 3, 4, 5 and 6 depict alternate views (FIGS. 6-9) of the same embodiment (see, *inter alia*, page 6, lines 1-8 and page 13, line 6 through page 15, line 21 of the present application). Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that at least the subject matter described in the alleged species 3, 4, 5 and 6 are not patentably distinct and should be combined as one specie. As such, combining them would not provide an undue burden on the Examiner to consider them together. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and modification of the species requirement.

Applicant further submits that the alleged species 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 depict alternate views (FIGS. 10-18) of the same embodiment (see, *inter alia*, page 6, lines 9-15 and page 15, line 22 through page 18, line 6 of the present application). Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that at least the subject matter described in the alleged species 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 are not patentably distinct and should be combined as one specie. As such, combining them would not provide an undue burden on the Examiner to consider them together. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and modification of the species requirement.

Applicant further submits that the alleged species 12 and 13 depict alternate views (FIGS. 19-21) of the same embodiment (see, *inter alia*, page 6, lines 22-25 and page 18, line 7 through page 20, line 18 of the present application). Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that at least the subject matter described in the alleged species 12 and 13 are not patentably distinct and should be combined as one specie. As such, combining them would not provide an undue burden on the Examiner to consider them together. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and modification of the species requirement.

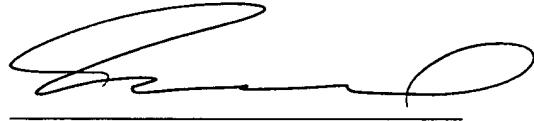
In the Office Action, no claims were found generic. Applicant respectfully submits that at least independent claims 1, 8 and 13 are generic to, at least, specie 12. Further, it is submitted that independent claims 1, 8 and 13 are generic to any specie that includes, at least, FIGS. 19-21. Therefore, upon the allowance of the generic claims all respective dependent claims would also be allowable. Support for this position may be found throughout the specification and drawings of the instant application.

In view of the foregoing remarks, early and favorable consideration of the application is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) which may become due at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s) to Deposit Account No. 50-0369. Also, in the event any extensions of time for responding are required for the pending application(s), please treat this paper as a petition to extend the time as required and charge Deposit Account No. 50-0369 therefor.

Respectfully submitted,

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